

C2 (Amended) 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the protective layer includes at least one of a water soluble polymer, a thermoplastic polymer, a latex based polymer, a thermoset polymer, and a UV curable polymer.

(Amended) 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic material forms a self-assembled monolayer on the silica-containing article.

(Amended) 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic material includes at least one of hydrocarbon silane, fluorocarbon silane, epoxy functional silanes, acrylate functional silane, amine functional silane, thiol functional silane, phenyl functional silane, an alkyl and aryl ammonium compound, acrylate polymer, polyvinyl alcohol, and a wax.

(Amended) 27. The method of claim 1, wherein the protective layer includes at least one of a water soluble polymer, a thermoplastic polymer, a latex based polymer, a thermoset polymer, and a UV curable polymer.

C3 (Amended) 28. The method of claim 18, wherein the organic material forms a self-assembled monolayer on the fiber preform.

(Amended) 29. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic material includes at least one of hydrocarbon silane, fluorocarbon silane, epoxy functional silanes, acrylate functional silane, amine functional silane, thiol functional silane, phenyl functional silane, an alkyl and aryl ammonium compound, acrylate polymer, polyvinyl alcohol, and a wax.

Please cancel claims ~~3, 5, 9, 13, 15, 22-26, and 30-31.~~